



30 September 2021



Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about radiology services. Thank you for agreeing to reduce the scope of your request to 2019/20 and 2020/21.

- The number of outpatient radiology assessments/investigations per year for the past 5 years broken down under categories for X-ray, MRI, CT, Other, listed as an absolute number, percentage change from the previous year, number per capita for Maori and non-Maori and total for each category ?*

Please see the information below. The per capita population data is taken from interpolations and projections based on the Census information.

	Total Number	Percentage difference	Māori Per Capita	Non-Māori Per Capita	Māori	Non-Māori
CT	36499				9114	27385
2019/20	6737	-4.63	0.03	0.04	1705	5032
2020/21	7813	15.97	0.03	0.05	2008	5805
MRI	13849				3592	10257
2019/20	2578	-8.48	0.01	0.02	662	1916
2020/21	2908	12.80	0.01	0.02	791	2117
OTHER	71482				23320	48162
2019/20	13097	0.10	0.07	0.08	4364	8733
2020/21	15310	16.90	0.08	0.09	5096	10214
X-RAY	182965				56978	125987
2019/20	31787	-11.42	0.15	0.19	9776	22011
20/2021	37770	18.82	0.18	0.22	12500	25270
Grand Total	304795				93004	211791

2. *The number of outpatient radiology assessments/investigations per year for the past 5 years broken down under categories where there is a primary or main provisional diagnosis of cancer for X-ray, MRI, CT, Other, listed as an absolute number, percentage change from the previous year, number per capita for Maori and non-Maori and total for each category?*

The primary or provisional diagnosis is not collected in conjunction with outpatient radiology requests in our radiology database. In order to provide this information we would have to manually review all the requests received. This would require substantial collation and research and I have therefore decided to decline this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

3. *The number of outpatient radiology investigations cancelled delayed or postponed in levels 3 & 4 for the coronavirus outbreaks of 2020 and 2021, listed by level and year?*

Year	Alert Level	Postponed	Cancelled
2020	NULL	5	2
2020	1	2	
2020	2	96	
2020	3	435	13
2020	4	233	12
2021	1	164	1
2021	2	19	
2021	3	26	
2021	4	643	17

On 17 August 2021 (the day before level 4 lockdown) 159 outpatient radiology investigations were postponed.

4. *The number of outpatient radiology investigations cancelled delayed or postponed in levels 3 & 4 for the coronavirus outbreaks of 2020 and 2021 where the primary diagnosis or main provisional diagnosis was cancer, listed by level and year ?*

The primary or provisional diagnosis is not collected in conjunction with outpatient radiology requests in our radiology database. In order to provide this information we would have to manually review all the requests received. This would require substantial collation and research and I have therefore decided to decline this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

5. *The number of cancelled, delayed or postponed inpatient procedures in levels 3 & 4 to date where the primary diagnosis or main provisional diagnosis was cancer, listed by level?*

Zero

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any queries relating to Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive